

because they had a gun to their head where they were told it is either this or nothing. But that is not what the Senate is all about. The Senate is the institution where one man or woman, standing up for an idea or an ideal, can see their way to make change. We all have that power in this institution. We have the power to make maybe what is the passion of the House at the moment be more tempered in this body. It is the nature of how the Founders structured our two legislative bodies.

It is time for us to live up to the highest calling of the Senate and take care of the 3.5 million people of Puerto Rico, who are U.S. citizens, in the right way. So where Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ or any of my other colleagues in the House felt they had no choice and no options, that is not what the Senate is all about. That is why the Senate rules permit even the minority at times—although it had been structured in such a way to make it very hard, there are still ways, if we choose as Members, to cast that vote.

So as to the July 1 deadline, we have provisions. This provision in the bill is probably the only one I like, at least the way it is written, with a retroactive stay. Secondly, my colleagues didn't have much of a choice, so they felt that it is either this or nothing. And if it is nothing, then there are real problems. I don't accept the "this or nothing." I accept it can be better, as Senator CANTWELL has suggested, and I believe that can take place. That happens tomorrow when we come back into session.

I hope there will be a vote against cloture to give us that opportunity. If we fail—if enough Members want to vote for an undemocratic bill that goes against some of the very Republican principles of being true to the Founders of the Constitution and the architects of our great democracy that suggests that consent of the governed is essential, and if they believe, at the end of the day—again, I know many of them have an aversion to corporate welfare—then I would hope they would be true to their principles and vote against cloture.

For the Democratic side, I would hope the very essence of our belief in rising wages and overtime protections and also the view of the consent of the governed—we are strong advocates of democracy—and making sure of the environmental protections we fight so hard on—those should not be denied to the people of Puerto Rico. We can vote against cloture and create a process for some reasonable amendments. I am sure there can be agreements to come to that, to have a chance for the people of Puerto Rico to have a say and make the bill better by virtue of a democratic process in the Senate.

In the absence of that, if we fail, there is a motion that is available to table an amendment that is in the tree in order to offer another amendment. I hope my colleagues, in a bipartisan fashion, if they think it is so important

to get cloture—which I don't agree with in terms of timing; the July 1 deadline is dealt with; the reasons others voted for it are amply understood—then there is an opportunity to vote to table one of the amendments that are on the table now and, therefore, create an opening for an amendment where we could at least have that debate and have that opportunity. Those are available, as I understand it, from the Parliamentarian under the rules.

I hope we can achieve that moment. It would be one of the bright moments of the Senate versus one of the darkest moments, I think, if we continue on the road we are on.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall vote No. 111 on confirmation of PN576. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I want to recognize Hot Springs National Park in Hot Springs, AR. Hot Springs is a world famous tourist destination and it is not hard to see why. Whether it is to take advantage of the many recreational activities like hiking or boating or to bathe in the hot, therapeutic waters found in the area, guests have traveled from across the country and around the world to visit Hot Springs. In an effort to preserve its unique hot springs, Hot Springs first became a protected area in 1832 when Congress declared the area a reservation. It was officially designated as a national park in 1921.

In the years after it became a reservation, Hot Springs experienced extensive economic growth and majestic bathhouses replaced the rudimentary wooden structures surrounding the hot water springs. The remaining bathhouse row structures in Hot Springs National Park are now part of a National Historic Landmark District that sees thousands of visitors each year.

But Hot Springs has more than just unique natural features. Over the last century, they have hosted Major League Baseball spring training. They are also home to Oaklawn horse racing, and the notorious gangster Al Capone is even rumored to have spent time in town. Finally, former President Bill Clinton graduated from Hot Springs High School.

Hot Springs National Park is a true Arkansas treasure, and the surrounding town makes it that much better. This park has a storied history, but its best days are ahead of it. The hot springs are still flowing, the bathhouses are still open, and the scenery remains breathtaking. In honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I encourage you to go out and find your park.

APPOINTMENT OF ROSE GOTTEMOELLER TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on June 27th, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg appointed Under Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller to become the next Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I am pleased to see such a well-respected and qualified individual take up a critically important post within NATO.

Rose Gottemoeller has distinguished herself at the State Department as the consummate public servant. Her work in the State Department has focused on pragmatically confronting some of the most critical international security issues the United States faces, including nonproliferation, arms control, and nuclear security. She is best known for her role in the New START Treaty, when she represented the United States as its chief negotiator. She has been confirmed by the Senate for two different positions at State, first as Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance and currently as Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security. In these roles, Rose has been integral to ensuring that American national security priorities are realized, and I personally could not think of a more competent individual who has the requisite experience and expertise to be the next Deputy Secretary General.

Under Secretary Gottemoeller will be taking up her post at a critical time for Europe. NATO's core mission is safeguarding the freedom and security of its 28 members. The freedom and security of Europe today is threatened by Russian aggression on its eastern flank and from the instability and violence emanating from the Middle East and North Africa. The United States and our NATO allies must stand together as one in order to achieve national and international security against these threats.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying, for the record, that I myself have had numerous opportunities to

interact with Rose Gottemoeller during my time on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and have come away impressed. She has been forthright when questioned during hearings and briefings. She has been pleasant, upfront, and informative during meetings. I know from my own experiences that she will continue to serve the United States well in her capacity as Deputy Secretary General of NATO.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS ARMENTARO

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, in honor of Independence Day, I wish to recognize Louis Armentaro of Park County. Louis is an Army veteran, having served as an infantryman in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. We celebrate our independence and freedom because of people like Louis, who selflessly put himself in harm's way, fighting against tyranny for his country.

Over the Fourth of July weekend, I will have the privilege to honor Louis and watch him announce his 68th Livingston Roundup Parade. Louis started this tradition back in 1949, when he returned to Montana after serving in World War II. During his time in the special services in Japan, Louis delighted in running audio for his fellow soldiers at the GI theatre, ball games, and parades. He is in the Guinness Book of World Records as the "most durable rodeo parade announcer." His passion for western swing and its ability to transport people inspired him to start Sound Over the West audio and announcing when he returned home.

As a child, Louis grew up with a passion for authentic country music. Not only is he one of the greatest curators of this style in Montana, he is also one of the most revered pedal steel guitar players in the country music community. In the early 1950s, Louis, his brother Frank Armentaro, and their friend Oscar Bergsing started the Rhythm Ramblers, one of the longest living bands in Montana. For decades, they created a soundtrack for countless swing dancers across the State. While performances from the group are extremely rare today, Louis continues to play his steel guitar every morning. At 91 years old, he is one of the most experienced steel guitar players alive.

Louis, with the support of his devoted wife, Donna, has become a pillar in the Livingston community. Not only have the couple raised and fostered an estimated 30 children, they are an indispensable part of the Livingston Roundup Rodeo. For many cowboys and cowgirls, this event is known as Cowboy Christmas; Louis Armentaro is their Santa Claus. He is the dependable voice and orchestrator and is the most recognizable attraction in the rodeo parade. During the parade and the rodeo, Louis blares his curated collection of western swing music. For the

last six decades, he has introduced people of all ages to sounds of American country and the history these songs can teach.

I am proud to honor this unique man for his service to his community and our country.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JEFFERY W. TALLEY

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor a dedicated soldier and business entrepreneur who has demonstrated illustrious service to our Nation while in uniform and in private, public, and academic sectors. After 34 years of service as a model citizen-soldier, LTG Jeffery W. Talley is retiring from his distinguished Army career.

LTG Jeffrey W. Talley served as both the Chief of the Army Reserve and the Commanding General of U.S. Army Reserve Command from 11 June 2012 to 1 June 2016. Lieutenant General Talley led the Army Reserve through one of the most tumultuous times in its history, guiding the command through the initial phases of a drawdown of forces as it simultaneously supported the war in Afghanistan and executed multiple contingency deployments in support of our Nation. Through his leadership, Lieutenant General Talley has forever changed the mission, culture, and composition of the Army Reserve. He leaves a combat-tested component that is more responsive to the Joint and Army warfighting requirements and contributes directly to our ability to fight and win our Nation's wars.

Lieutenant General Talley is responsible for developing and executing critical enabler capabilities to the Joint Force through the use of Army Reserve Engagement Cells and Teams, AREC/Ts. AREC/Ts assist Army Service Component Commands and Combatant Commands by integrating Army Reserve capabilities into plans, exercises, and operational activities and provide reachback capability to the whole of the U.S. Army Reserve Command's CONUS-based theater enabling commands. The Army Reserve possesses the majority of force structure of the Army's total capability in many key areas to include more than 90 percent of the Army's Civil Affairs capability, more than 50 percent of the Army's total logistics and medical capability, and nearly all of the Army's theater opening capability. Nothing is more important to Lieutenant General Talley than taking care of our Nation's most precious resource: our soldiers. As a citizen-soldier himself, Lieutenant General Talley is acutely aware of the challenges and sacrifices of Army Reserve soldiers as they juggle their service to the Nation, community, and family well-being. This focus on soldiers and their families, combined with the recognition that soldier support is a critical component of soldier readiness, led him to create the Private Public Partnership Office, P3O. P3O

has blossomed into one of the DOD's most effective hiring and readiness generating programs. This indispensable capability recognizes the tie that Army Reserve soldiers have with their local communities.

Lieutenant General Talley codified the comprehensive transformation of the Army Reserve from a strategic, static component of the Army, to an integral, operational asset critical to the success of the Army's mission to provide trained and ready forces. Lieutenant General Talley's accomplishments will benefit the Army Reserve, the Army, and the Joint Force for years to come.

Jeffery Talley and his wife, Linda, have four children: Christopher, Joshua, and Matthew—a combat veteran—and Ashley. The Talley family moved 23 times throughout Jeffery's military career. During those times, Linda volunteered as a senior family readiness adviser. For her dedication, she was named "Volunteer of the Year" and received the Essayons Award for spouses who make significant contributions to the Army Engineer Regiment. I wish Jeffery, Linda, and the entire Talley family the best in their future endeavors and the next chapter of their lives.●

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SCHULTE

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Michael Schulte, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Michael is a graduate of BOLD High School in Olivia, MN. Currently, Michael is attending South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD, majoring in political science and global studies. Michael is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of his experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Michael Schulte for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO REGAN SCOTT

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Regan Scott, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota.

Regan is a graduate of Sioux Falls Christian in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, Regan is attending Northwestern College in Orange City, SD, majoring in business administration. Regan is a dedicated worker who has been committed to getting the most out of her experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Regan Scott for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to